

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 04447 160652Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 DHA-02 INR-05 NSC-05
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R 151425Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3857
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIUCHAREST 4447

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDYCAW
TAGS: CSCE SHUM RO
SUBJECT: JEWISH EMIGRATION

1. ISRAEL AMBASSADOR CAHANA INFORMS US APPROXIMATELY
500 ROMANIAN JEWS EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL FROM JANUARY 1
THROUGH END OF MAY. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI STATISTICS THIS IS
APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF RATE OF 1976. HE IS ESPECIALLY
CONCERNED BECAUSE HE STATES JEWISH ARANCY REPS NEGOTIATED
A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" EARLY THIS YEAR STIPULATING THAT
THE 1977 LEVEL WOULD BE NOT LESS THAN 3,000 PERSONS.
ROMANIANS HAD EVEN SUGGESTED FIGURE COULD REACH 5,000.
FYI AMB CAHANA REQUESTED DCM TO HOLD THIS INFORMATION
IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD HE
BE CITED AS SOURCE END FYI.

2. WHEN DCM PRESSED FOR ISRAELI EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF
WHY ROMANIANS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE MEETING THEIR COMMITMENT,
AMBASSADOR SAID BLUNT TRUTH IS NO ONE IN EMBASSY KNOWS
ANY DETAIL
OF AGREEMENT AND HE IS UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS
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FROM TEL AVIV TO STAY CLEAR OF EMIGRATION SCENE. HE ADDED,
AGAIN IN CONFIDENCE, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU HAD
BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT I K A E L THIS MONTH. SUBJECT OF EMIGRA-
TION SLOW-DOWN WAS HIGH ON THE AGENDA. VISIT IS NOW IN ABEYANCE
PENDING FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. INCIDENTALLY, AMB
CAHANA'S PERSONAL JUDGEMENT IS THAT A LIJUD GOVERNMENT IS
LIKELY TO BE MUCH TOUGHER ON THE ROMANIAN EMIGRATION QUESTION

THAN ITS PREDCESSOR.

3. JUNE 14 PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1977 CENSUS DATA (25,686 JEWS VS 1966 CENSUS FIGURE OF 42,885 JEWS) PROVIDED NO SPECIAL CONCERN ON PART AMB CAHANA. HE SAID FALL IN NUMBER OF "DECLARED" JEWS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE (1) TO EMIGRATION; (2) SOCIO-LOGICAL PHENOMENON OF ASSIMILATION WHICH WAS OCCURING IN JEWISH COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. HE WOULD NOT SPECULATE ON IMPLICATONS NEW CENSUS FIGURE MIGHT HAVE IN RESPECT TO EMIGRATION. SAID HIS PERSONAL ESTIMATE OF ROMANIAN JEWISH POPULATION WAS APPROXIMATELY 45,000 (20,000 IN PROVINCES AND 25,000 IN BUCHAREST). GRINNING, HE ADDED THAT OFFICIAL EMBASSY ESTIMATED CONTINUED TO BE 60,000.
BARNES

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